

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, UK, LU

SUBJ: GOL VIEWS LATEST BRITISH RENEGOTIATION BID

ON JUNE 5 MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL PIERRE WURTH COMMENTED TO DCM THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S JUNE 4 PRESENTATION ON UK RENEGOTIATION AT THE EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) WAS ESSENTIALLY "NEW SAUCE BUT SAME SUBSTANCE." WURTH ADDED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT PRO-E.C. CIVIL SERVANTS HAD MADE CALLAGHAN MORE AWARE OF THE BENEFITS THAT UK DERIVES FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY, BUT THAT THE LABOUR PARTY WAS STILL FAR FROM COMMITTED TO KEEPING BRITAIN IN THE EC. WURTH COMMENTED THAT NEW FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARQUES IMPRESSED
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HIS COLLEAGUES BY MIXING HARD ARGUMENTS AGAINST CALLAGHAN

WITH A FORTHCOMING MANNER WHICH PERMITTED A FRANK DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE ELEMENT OF PERSONAL IRRITATION WITH JOBERT INVARIABLY INTRODUCED. IF THE E.C. COMMISSION DOES ESTABLISH THAT THE UK WOULD ACTUALLY BE UNFAIRLY CHARGED BY THE PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS, WURTH SAID THAT THE E.C. WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF BRITISH CONTRIBUTIONS WITHOUT ADMITTING THAT SUCH A READJUSTMENT IMPLIED ANY RENEGOTIATION WHATSOEVER OF THE TREATY ITSELF. FARKAS

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